

THE TOWN OF FOREST HEIGHTS
RESOLUTION 37-20

A RESOLUTION TO CANCEL FOREST HEIGHTS DAY AND NATIONAL NIGHT OUT SLATED FOR AUGUST 2020 DUE TO THE CONTINUING HEALTH EMERGENCY AND TO AMEND RESOLUTION 23-20 TO APPROVE AND ADOPT BY REFERENCE COUNTY EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 10-2020 CONTINUING THE DECLARATION OF A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

Introduced By: Mayor Habeeb-Ullah Muhammad and Council President Calvin Washington

WHEREAS, as it typically does each year, the Town of Forest Heights planned to organize and host its Annual Forest Heights Day on the first Saturday in August and National Night Out hosted by the Town's police department on Tuesday, August 4, 2020; and

WHEREAS, each year the Town expects between 400 to 500 community residents, local politicians, churches, and business owners, in attendance at the Forest Heights Day celebration and the event typically includes speakers, special guests, games and contests for all age groups, vendors and a variety of foods; and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2020, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan initially declared a state of emergency in response to concerns about the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, an initial Town Emergency Proclamation was declared on April 5, 2020, with an indefinite extension approved by the Town Council by Resolution 23-20 at the May 4, 2020 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Governor issued Order Number 20-05-13-01, dated May 13, 2020, (Amending and Restating the Order of May 6, 2020, Allowing Reopening of Certain Businesses and Facilities, Subject to Local Regulation), as amended by Order Number 20-05-27-01, dated May 27, 2020, specifically authorized political subdivisions to issue more restrictive orders than issued by the Governor including requiring any businesses, organizations, establishments, or facilities to close or modify their operations; and/or requiring individuals to remain indoors or to refrain from congregating; and

WHEREAS, despite any Local Orders that may be issued, the Governor's latest orders among other restrictions continues to prohibit: (i) large gatherings of more than 10 people, (ii) worship services that exceed 50% of a Religious Facility's Maximum Occupancy, (iii) shopping where the total number of persons permitted in a Retail Establishment at any one time shall not exceed 50% of that Retail Establishment's Maximum Occupancy, (iv) obtaining Personal Services where customers patronizing certain businesses such as barbers are required to do so by appointment basis only, wear Face Coverings, clean and disinfect the service areas, and not exceed 50% of the Personal Service Establishment's Maximum Occupancy; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's latest orders further require public compliance with (i) applicable Local Orders, (ii) the State Health Secretary's Directives, (iii) applicable social distancing guidelines published by the CDC and Md. Health Dept., and any orders issued by any applicable Local Health Officer pursuant to the Order of the Governor of the State of Maryland

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Number 20-04- 05-02, dated April 5, 2020, entitled "Delegating Authority to Local Officials to Control and Close Unsafe Facilities", as it may be amended from time to time; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has issued a Local Order known as Executive Order No. 10-2020 on May 28 2020 that essentially rescinds the locally issued Stay-at-Home Order effective June 1, but keeps in place the closure of certain business, organizations and facilities, and encourages all residents to stay in their homes or residences as much as possible; and

WHEREAS, Subsection 2.9.B of the Town Code, authorizes the Town Council by resolution to modify or reject an emergency order of the Mayor, and if the Council modifies or rejects the order, said modification or rejection shall be prospective only, and shall not affect any actions taken prior to the modification or rejection of the order; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds that it is in the best interest of the Town during these unprecedented and uncertain times and under the current state of the declared health emergency applicable to the State, the County and the Town to cancel the aforementioned public events, and resolve to follow and enforce all relevant State and Local Emergency Orders.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves, directs and authorizes the Mayor to cancel the Annual Forest Heights Day previously scheduled for August 1, 2020 and National Night Out previously scheduled for August 4, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby further approves and amends Town Resolution 23-20 to adopt by reference County Executive Order No. 10-2020, in as much as it does not conflict with any Local Order of the Town, as if written word for word hereinbelow, to be enforced within the corporate limits of the Town by the County Police Department pursuant to County Order No. 10-2020 and the Forest Heights Police Department, pursuant to mayoral proclamation and any relevant resolutions authorized by Article 2 of the Town Ordinance Code and enforced pursuant to Section 2.17 of said Code; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution and the latest Governor's Order (i.e., Order No. 20-05-27-01, dated May 27, 2020 regarding the reopening of certain businesses and facilities, subject to local regulation) and County Executive Order No. 10-2020 dated May 28 2020, as amended, shall be made available to all occupants or attendees at any Town building and facility where public business is permitted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

PASSED this 17 day of June 2020.

APPROVED: By Resolution of the Town Council of The Town of Forest Heights, Maryland

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ROLL CALL VOTE

YEA/NAY/ABSTAIN/ABSENT

MUHAMMAD

KENNEDY II

NOBLE

BARNES

HINES

WASHINGTON

ATKINSON

Yea
Yea
Yea
Yea
Yea
Yea
Yea

ATTEST:

THE TOWN OF FOREST HEIGHTS,
MARYLAND

SIGNATURE ON FILE

Sherletta Hawkins, Town Clerk

SIGNATURE ON FILE

By:

Mayor Habeeb-Ullah Muhammad, Mayor

SIGNATURE ON FILE

By:

Calvin Washington, Council President

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify, as the duly appointed Town Clerk of the Town of Forest Heights, Maryland, that on the 17 day of June 2020 with 7 Aye votes and 0 Nay votes the aforesaid Resolution 37-20 passed.

SIGNATURE ON FILE

Sherletta Hawkins, Town Clerk